

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01732 271312Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1732

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), IS, US
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO WESTERN WALL

REF: (A) STATE 160089, (B) STATE 153851

1. DURING OUR DISCUSSION OF VP'S SCHEDULE WITH BEN ELISSAR AND HIS STAFF ON JUNE 27 (OTHER ASPECTS REPORTED SEPTEL), WE SAID THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THEIR IDEA BROACHED ON JUNE 25 THAT VP BE ESCORTED BY PROF MAZAR OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY ON JUNE 30 VISIT TO WESTERN WALL. BEN ELISSAR AND OTHERS IMMEDIATELY BACKED OFF FROM THIS AND SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF MAYOR TEDDY KOLLEK'S POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES (HIS LATEST PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE ALSO BEING REPORTED SEPTEL), THE GOI BELIEVES THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE MAYOR ACCOMPANY THE MONDALE PARTY AT THE WALL. OTHERWISE, THE ISRAELIS SAID, A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE WOULD BE CREATED AT THE OUTSET WITH KOLLEK BOYCOTTING THE VISIT AND BEING VERY PUBLIC ABOUT IT.

2. DCM VIETS AGAIN WENT OVER US POSITION AS OUTLINED
REF A IN A QUIET SIDE CONVERSATION WITH BEN ELISSAR. BEN
ELLISAR SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THAT PM BEGIN WOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER
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WITH AMBASSADOR LEWIS. THIS MAY TAKE PLACE IN PERSON MORNING OF JUNE 28, WHEN AMBASSADOR IS SEEING BEGIN ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, OR PRIOR TO THAT IF PM TAKES THE INITIATIVE. WE WERE ALSO TOLD THAT MINISTER BARON HAD RAISED THIS SUBJECT AT HIGH LEVEL IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY.

3. WE NEED URGENTLY A RESUME OF THE CONVERSATION WITH BAR

ON AND WASHINGTON'S LATEST IDEAS ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE
FOR AMBASSADOR'S LEWIS' USE IN HIS TALK WITH BEGIN. ALL
INDICATIONS HERE ARE THAT GOI DOES NOT, FOR A VARIETY OF
REASONS, PLAN TO ALLOW THE VISIT TO THE WALL WITHOUT AN
ACCOMPANYING ISRAELI OFFICIAL. BECAUSE HE IS AN INDEPENDENT
POLITICAL FORCE, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT GOI COULD GET KOLLEK TO
CHANGE HIS POSITION EVEN IF IT TRIED. RATHER THAN TRYING
TO CONTROL TEDDY, THE ISRAELIS, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THEY HOLD
THE TRUMP CARDS IN THIS GAMGE, APPEAR TO BE CONDUCTING A
CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN TO MAKE CANCELLATION OF THE
WALL VISIT HIGHLY DAMAGING TO THE OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. THE CRUNCH IS UPON US.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.

NEWLIN

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